

~~S E C R E T~~

25X1

OCT 20 2006/03

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
3 October 1963

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Statements Concerning Casualties Resulting from General Nuclear War

1. Official United States and Soviet statements on the subject of casualties resulting from nuclear war tend to deal in generalities, making meaningful comparison of those statements difficult. In addition, nuclear blast variables make all such estimates highly speculative except when applied to specific targets and specific blast conditions. In those instances where detailed figures are used, official Soviet and US statements are roughly equivalent, although Soviet casualty figures are usually higher than comparable US figures. Each country also lays claim to the ability to survive a nuclear exchange with fewer casualties than the other.

2. Official Soviet statements make extensive use of US findings on the number of casualties which might result from nuclear war.

25X1

3. A more detailed discussion, including examples of relevant statements, is attached herewith.

~~S E C R E T~~

25X1